

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-127. (Canceled)

128. (Currently Amended) A device for providing additional stabilization to tissue already in contact with a primary stabilization member, said device comprising:

a single, substantially rigid, tissue contact member formed in a unitary, continuous loop and adapted to be placed on the tissue in an area bounded by primary tissue contact members, wherein a bottom surface of said contact member includes a contact surface that angles from an exterior portion thereof to an interior portion thereof ~~inclines upwardly at an outer perimeter portion thereof~~; and

a connecting member extending from said at least one tissue contact member and adapted to be hand held or fixed to a relatively immovable object.

129. (Original) The device of claim 128, wherein said at least one tissue contact member comprises a base member having a central opening therethrough, said central opening adapted to allow access to a target site on the tissue.

130. (Original) The device of claim 129, wherein said base member is substantially oval-shaped.

131. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 130, wherein said oval-shaped member cants upwardly around an outer perimeter thereof ~~in the shape of a cowboy hat~~.

132. (Original) The device of claim 129, wherein said base member has a substantially hollow interior adapted to develop a negative pressure therein.

133. (Original) The device of claim 132, wherein said connecting member fluidly connects with said substantially hollow interior and is adapted to be connected to a source of negative pressure.

134. (Original) The device of claim 132, wherein said base member further comprises openings through a bottom surface thereof, said openings being fluidly connected with said substantially hollow interior and adapted to apply a negative pressure to the tissue.

135. (Original) The device of claim 134, wherein said base member further comprises openings through an upper surface thereof, said openings through said upper surface being fluidly connected with a lumen that is connectable with a source of pressure that is independent of a pressure in said substantially hollow interior of said base member.

136. (Original) The device of claim 135, wherein said lumen runs inside of said connecting member.

137. (Original) The device of claim 135 further comprising a manifold mounted inside said base member and fluidly connecting said lumen with said openings through said upper surface.

Claims 138-144. (Canceled)

145. (Currently Amended) A device for providing additional stabilization to tissue already in contact with a primary stabilization member, said device comprising:

at least one tissue contact member adapted to be placed on the tissue in an area bounded by primary tissue contact members, wherein said at least one tissue contact member comprises a substantially oval-shaped base member having a central opening therethrough, said central opening adapted to allow access to a target site on the tissue, and wherein said substantially oval-shaped base member has a contact surface that cants upwardly around an outer perimeter thereof ~~in the shape of a cowboy hat~~; and

a connecting member extending from said at least one tissue contact member and adapted to be hand held or fixed to a relatively immovable object.

146. (Currently Amended) A device for providing additional stabilization to tissue already in contact with a primary stabilization member, said device comprising:

at least one tissue contact member adapted to be placed on the tissue in an area bounded by primary tissue contact members, wherein said at least one tissue contact member comprises a base member having a central opening therethrough, said central opening adapted to allow access to a target site on the tissue, said base member further having a substantially hollow interior adapted to develop a negative pressure therein, wherein said base member further comprises openings through a bottom

surface thereof, said openings being fluidly connected with said substantially hollow interior and adapted to apply a negative pressure to the tissue, and openings through an upper surface thereof, said openings through said upper surface being fluidly connected with a lumen that is connectable with a source of pressure that is independent of a pressure in said substantially hollow interior of said base member, wherein said bottom surface comprises a contact surface that inclines upwardly towards an outer perimeter thereof; and

a connecting member extending from said at least one tissue contact member and adapted to be hand held or fixed to a relatively immovable object.

147. (Previously Presented) A device for providing additional stabilization to tissue already in contact with a primary stabilization member, said device comprising:

at least one tissue contact member adapted to be placed on the tissue in an area bounded by primary tissue contact members, said at least one tissue contact member comprising a base member having a central opening therethrough, said central opening adapted to allow access to a target site on the tissue, said base member further having an outer perimeter portion that cants upwardly from a lower surface of said base member located interiorly of said outer perimeter portion, so that said lower surface located interiorly contacts the tissue while said outer perimeter portion contacts the primary stabilization member; and

a connecting member extending from said at least one tissue contact member and adapted to be hand held or fixed to a relatively immovable object.

148. (Currently Amended) A device for providing additional stabilization to tissue already in contact with a primary stabilization member, said device comprising:

a single, substantially rigid, tissue contact member formed in a continuous loop and adapted to be placed on the tissue in an area bounded by primary tissue contact members, said single, substantially rigid, tissue contact member including a contact surface that angles from an exterior portion thereof to an interior portion thereof, whereby said interior portion of said contact surface is configured to approximate tissue while allowing said exterior portion to contact upper surfaces of said primary stabilization member inclining upwardly at an outer perimeter portion thereof; and

a connecting member integrally formed with and extending from said at least one tissue contact member and adapted to be hand held or fixed to a relatively immovable object.

149. (Currently Amended) A device for providing additional stabilization to tissue already in contact with a primary stabilization member, said device comprising:

a single, substantially rigid, tissue contact member formed in a continuous loop and adapted to be placed on the tissue in an area bounded by primary tissue contact members, wherein said at least one tissue contact member comprises a base member having a central opening therethrough, said central opening adapted to allow access to a target site on the tissue, and wherein said base member is substantially oval-shaped and has a contact surface that ~~cants upwardly~~ around an outer perimeter thereof ~~in the shape of a cowboy hat~~; and

a connecting member extending from said at least one tissue contact member and adapted to be hand held or fixed to a relatively immovable object.

150. (Currently Amended) A device for providing additional stabilization to tissue already in contact with a primary stabilization member, said device comprising:

a single, substantially rigid, tissue contact member formed in a unitary, continuous loop and adapted to be placed on the tissue in an area bounded by primary tissue contact members, wherein said at least one tissue contact member comprises a base member having a central opening therethrough, said central opening adapted to allow access to a target site on the tissue, wherein said base member has a substantially hollow interior adapted to develop a negative pressure therein, wherein said base member further comprises openings through a bottom surface thereof, said bottom surface inclined upwardly along a direction from an interior perimeter thereof to and exterior perimeter thereof, said openings being fluidly connected with said substantially hollow interior and adapted to apply a negative pressure to the tissue, and wherein said base member further comprises openings through an upper surface thereof, said openings through said upper surface being fluidly connected with a lumen that is connectable with a source of pressure that is independent of a pressure in said substantially hollow interior of said base member; and

a connecting member extending from said at least one tissue contact member and adapted to be hand held or fixed to a relatively immovable object.